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FINANCING MONTANA POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS
TO BE TELEVISION TOPIC SUNDAY ON MTN

MISSOULA--

A television program entitled "Face-off: Montana Campaigns" will be presented as a public service on the Montana Television Network (MTN) from 3-4 p.m. MDT Sunday (Jan. 6) under a grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities (MCH). Stations broadcasting the program will include KTVQ, Billings; KXLF, Butte; KRTV, Great Falls, and KPAX, Missoula.

Bruce R. Sievers, MCH director, who has offices at the University of Montana in Missoula, said the program was produced by Montana Common Cause, an independent citizens' lobby, "to examine in depth the pros and cons of reforming political campaign financing."

Common Cause produced the TV program under an MCH grant of \$3,200. A follow-up conference on campaign funding will be presented under the same grant Jan. 12 in Helena.

Sievers said Sunday's TV program will deal primarily with possible controls of private financing of political campaigns in Montana.

"The 'pro' or reform side of the discussion advocates stringent controls on public financing of campaigns to minimize the influence of money in politics," Sievers said. "The 'con' or status quo side defends the existing system, maintaining that present laws, if enforced, would be sufficient to control excesses while allowing maximum freedom in using campaign funding resources."

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FINANCING MONTANA POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS--2.

The MTN television program, which is a video tape recording, is done in the courtroom style of cross-examination, and features the Rev. George Harper, Helena, "judge"; advocates Wade J. Dahood, Anaconda, and Mae Nan Robinson, Missoula; and four "witnesses" --State Senate Majority Leader Neil Lynch, D-Butte; Rep. Michael T. Greely, D-Great Falls; Dr. Thomas Payne, professor of political science at UM, and Dr. Lauren McKinsey, who is working on the "Montana Voter Review of Local Government Forms Project" for the UM Bureau of Government Research.

UM President Robert T. Pantzer is MCH chairman.

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